

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicants have amended claims 14-15 and 17-20. Accordingly, claims 14-20 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 14-15 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Aravamudan, et al. (US 6,567,398). The Applicants have amended the claims to better distinguish the claimed invention from Aravamudan. Aravamudan does not disclose all of the elements of a method of negotiating protocol options between first, second and third nodes in a telecommunications network using separated call control and bearer control protocols, the method comprising the steps of: transmitting a first call control message from the first node to the second node specifying protocol options supported by the first node; transmitting a second call control message from the second node to the third node specifying protocol options supported by both the first and second nodes; if there is a protocol option supported by both the first and second nodes, selecting a protocol option from the protocol options specified in the second control message, wherein said step of selecting a protocol option from the protocol options specified in the second control message is carried out by the third node; and if there is not a protocol option supported by both the first and second nodes, selecting a default capability. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 15 and 17-20 depend from amended claim 14 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 14. Therefore, the allowance of claims 14-15 and 17-20 is respectfully requested.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aravamudan. The Applicants have amended claim 14 to better distinguish the

claimed invention from Aravamudan. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claim is respectfully requested.

Claim 16 depends from amended claim 14 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 14. Therefore, the allowance of claim 16 is respectfully requested.

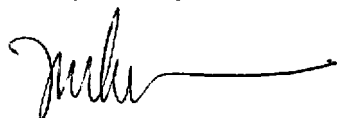
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 14-20.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Date: April 23, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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